

Representative Kathy Haigh Legislative Roundup: 2008

QUICK GUIDE TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES

U.S. LEGISLATORS

Senator Patty Murray  
Toll-free:..... (866) 481-9186

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Toll-free:..... (888) 648-7328

Congressman Norm Dicks  
Kitsap County:..... (360) 479-4011

STATE OFFICIALS

Governor Christine Gregoire..... (360) 902-4111

Attorney General Rob McKenna..... (360) 753-6200

Secretary of State Sam Reed..... (360) 902-4151

Insurance Commissioner Mike Kreidler ..... (360) 725-7000

INFO FOR OTHER STATE AGENCIES

Access Washington: ..... (877) 265-6553

35TH DISTRICT STATE LEGISLATORS

Senator Tim Sheldon..... (360) 786-7668

Rep. Kathy Haigh..... (360) 427-2028

Rep. Bill Eickmeyer..... (360) 786-7902



Representative  
Kathy Haigh  
35TH DISTRICT

For questions  
or comments:

Olympia Office:

PO Box 40600  
Olympia, WA 98504-0600  
(360) 786-7966

Shelton Office:

100 SE Walker Park Road  
Shelton, WA 98584  
(360) 427-2028

E-mail:

Haigh.Kathy@leg.wa.gov

Website:

www.housedemocrats.wa.gov/  
members/haigh

Toll-free Hotline:

1-800-562-6000

TDD (for hearing-impaired):

1-800-635-9993

Committees:

- Appropriations
- Appropriations Subcommittee on Education (Chair)
- Education

Legislative  
Roundup:  
2008

Spring 2008

Dear Friends,

The 2008 legislative session was a whirlwind event. The short session was only sixty days long, but we seem to get almost the same amount of work done as we do in the 105-day session.

You've probably heard that the number one concern of most people these days is the economy. Some states have been particularly hard-hit, but the groundwork we laid in earlier sessions has spared us from the worst. The reality, however, is that our state's economy is expected to take a downturn, and we made legislative decisions to invest in those services which provide economic stability for our working families and expand opportunities for career changes and retraining in community colleges and technical schools. We continued our efforts to create a health care system that is accessible to all citizens, meet the need for services to seniors and disabled citizens, and protect our state's natural resources.

My legislative work continues to focus around our education systems including early childhood programs and services, K-12 schools, and higher education programs. As chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, I strive to provide the funding that supports smooth transitions between preschool and kindergarten, as well as transitions from secondary education to the college classrooms. In that effort we increased funds for full-day kindergarten programs and we continue to support Running Start opportunities for high school students. But we realize that our career and technical education programs provide perhaps the most effective education for all students to graduate with the skills and knowledge to enter the work force and find good family-wage jobs. Therefore, we are expanding technical education programs across the state for greater access and quality of programs available.

I have represented the people of the 35th district in the Legislature since 1999 and it continues to be an amazing learning experience and a great opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the people I represent. It is an honor to serve you.

Kathy Haigh

Kathy Haigh



PRRST STD  
US POSTAGE PAID  
WA STATE DEPT  
OF PRINTING 98501

LEGISLATIVE ROUNDUP: 2008

Representative  
Kathy Haigh  
P.O. Box 40600  
Olympia WA 98504-0600





## 35<sup>th</sup> District Representative Kathy Haigh

### OVERHAULING THE FERRY SYSTEM

Ferry reform was a major issue this session and lawmakers approved a five-point plan to make sure the system is efficient, cost-effective and accountable.

#### FIVE-POINT PLAN FOR FERRY REFORM

- **Control Costs** – Lawmakers cut unnecessary overhead, and passed a budget that will keep costs under control. Fares are frozen for 28 months.
- **Overhaul Management** – Under the control of the Governor, all-new leadership is taking over the agency.
- **Focus on Service and Safety** – Funding is tight so resources will focus on providing safe and reliable service, not expanding terminals and other extras.
- **Build for the Future** – Funding was approved for six new vessels, with the first new vessel to be delivered in March 2009. Future budgets will focus on top priorities such as long-term vessel replacement and terminal preservation.
- **Accountability** – Oversight measures are now in place to ensure the ferry system is accountable to the Governor and legislator. Auditing measures are in place to review certain ferry expenditures.

### PROTECTING OUR FAMILIES

This session, we passed several major reforms to help law enforcement use these tools to keep us safe. Here are a few:

#### CRACKING COLD CASES WITH DNA

We passed a reform this year to require all sex offenders -- plus those convicted of kidnapping -- to submit DNA samples. Law enforcement officials tell us it's the best tool we have to crack all the cold cases where we have DNA evidence but no obvious suspects. This reform will help bring many criminals to justice so they can't hurt more kids and families. (HB 2713)

#### GETTING TOUGH ON OFFENDERS WHO FAIL TO REGISTER

The worst sex offenders get locked up forever. Many, however, will get out of prison once they've served their time. The best armor we have is to know where they live and what they look like. This bill boosts the penalty for failing to register to a class B felony. Sex offenders not registering would be subject to longer community-custody sentences, and it also levies fines of up to \$20,000 so sex offenders pay for some of the high costs of tracking them. (House Bill 2714)

#### IGNITION INTERLOCKS FOR CONVICTED DRUNK DRIVERS

One of the toughest problems we face is chronic drunk drivers who do it again and again, no matter how many times we arrest them or put them in jail. Ignition interlocks have worked in other states. People convicted of drunk driving pay for the device to be installed in their car and they can't start the car without blowing into the tube and getting a clear result. (HB 3254)

### IMPROVING OUR SCHOOLS, K-12 AND HIGHER LEARNING



*In my visits to schools around the state, I've seen first-hand how our investments are paying off.*

Education remains my top priority in Olympia. It's important that we invest in our students and build an education system that fully prepares today's children for jobs of the future.

- **Washington Head Start** – A lot of time and resources are spent bringing kids up to speed when they arrive at kindergarten unprepared. We approved an integrated Washington Head Start program by the year 2010 to ensure that more children arrive at school ready to learn. (HB 3168)
- **All-Day Kindergarten** – Lawmakers continued to invest in phasing in all-day kindergarten across the state.
- **School Libraries** – We enhanced library funding so schools can invest in more staffing, books and supplies.
- **Teacher Raises** – Our supplemental budget increased pay for public school employees and included cost-of-living adjustments not provided in the 2003-2005 biennium.
- **Career & Technical Education** – Not every student wants to go to college, but that doesn't mean they aren't interesting in learning valuable job skills. We broadened and re-tooled our existing technical education programs to provide students with a broad range of training opportunities. (SB 6377)
- **Higher Education** – Thousands of college students struggle to find quality childcare while they attend classes. We passed legislation that will expand the availability of childcare on campuses throughout the state. (HB 2582)

## Legislative Roundup: 2008

### CONSTRUCTION AHEAD!

The state's Capital Budget funds all kinds of projects around the state, from major improvements such as new sewer treatment plants or schools to small jobs such as fixing up nature trails and parks. Below are examples of local projects that will go a long way to improving our communities.

#### MASON COUNTY TRANSIT CENTER



Mason Transit Authority and SOCK (Save Our County's Kids) are working together to revamp the old Shelton Armory on Franklin Street. It's an incredible opportunity to create a much-needed transit hub as well as new space for the children's group and other community services. Lawmakers approved \$235,000 to help with planning and design.

#### CEDAR FLATS ROAD

When severe flooding hit Mason County late last year, Cedar Flats Road was one of many to get washed out. Lawmakers approved \$500,000 to rebuild the road at Swift Creek and repair the damaged culvert.

#### MASON COUNTY CONSORTIUM PROJECT

Lawmakers provided \$500,000 to support the Mason County Consortium wastewater system for the Hoodsport to Skokomish Indian Reservation area of Mason County.

#### STATE ROUTE 3

The Belfair Bypass and improvements in downtown Belfair continue to be important priorities in our area. Lawmakers approved more than \$51 million to help with a range of projects along SR 3 that will help relieve congestion in the community and improve safety.

In addition, the Legislature approved funding to complete the new, long-awaited on-ramp to Highway 101 from SR 3.

### SUPREME COURT SAYS YES TO TOP-TWO PRIMARY

When our old blanket primary was ruled unconstitutional we were forced to restructure our primary and ended up with the unpopular "Montana style" pick-a-party primary.

But Washington voters are notoriously independent and resent any system that forces them to pick a party. In 2004, voters passed I-872, which would provide for a top-two primary. However, the implementation of the initiative had been held up in the courts.

But the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling is finally in and our August primary will be conducted with the top two voter getters—regardless of party—advancing to the November general election.

*"We took the people's case to the nation's highest court and the people won. This is a victory for the voters of Washington because our democracy belongs to them."*

– Secretary of State Sam Reed



### WASHINGTON RANKS AS ONE OF MOST EFFECTIVE STATE GOVERNMENTS

A scorecard released by The Pew Center on the States ranks Washington, Utah and Virginia as the most effective state governments in the country.

Rankings are based on how well each state manages their budgets, staffs, infrastructure and information. The states with the highest scores have made accountability and innovation a priority, the report said.

The rankings are based on reviews by a panel of state government experts. States were graded on their recruitment and retention of qualified employees, their use of information and technology, management of budgets and purchasing systems, and planning for improvements to roads, bridges and other core infrastructure.